

What is claimed is:

1. In a computer system having a graphical user interface, a plug and play interface for user actions, said plug and play interface comprising:

means for establishing a file containing information about said user actions;

means for reading said file to determine certain of said user actions to be

implemented; and,

means for permitting said user to execute a portion of said certain of said user actions through operation of said graphical user interface.

2. The plug and play interface of claim 1 and wherein said computer system is included within a client-server network.

3. The plug and play interface of claim 1 and wherein said file is a text file.

4. The plug and play interface of claim 3 and wherein the language used in said text file is XML.

5. The plug and play interface of claim 1 and wherein said information includes every possible one of said user actions.

6. The plug and play interface of claim 5 and wherein said file establishing means includes means for establishing a plurality of files containing a like plurality of subsets of said information respectively, where totality of said subsets of said information encompasses said every possible one of said user actions.

7. The plug and play interface of claim 1 and wherein said file reading means includes censoring means to censor other than said certain of said user actions to be implemented.

8. The plug and play interface of claim 1 and further comprising:  
said computer system having memory including at least one table; and,  
said file reading means includes means for storing said certain of said user actions to be implemented in said at least one table.

9. The plug and play interface of claim 8 and wherein said certain of said user actions stored in said at least one table are formulated in Java language.

10. The plug and play interface of claim 1 and wherein said user permitting means includes means, operating on said graphical user interface, for greying-out other than said portion of said certain of said user actions.

11. The plug and play interface of claim 2 and wherein said file is a text file.

1 12. The plug and play interface of claim 11 and wherein the language used in said  
2 text file is XML.

3  
4 13. The plug and play interface of claim 12 and wherein said information includes  
5 every possible one of said user actions.

6  
7 14. The plug and play interface of claim 13 and wherein said file establishing means  
8 includes means for establishing a plurality of files containing a like plurality of subsets of  
9 said information respectively, where totality of said subsets of said information  
10 encompasses said every possible one of said user actions.

11  
12 15. The plug and play interface of claim 14 and wherein said file reading means  
13 includes censoring means to censor other than said certain of said user actions to be  
14 implemented.

15  
16 16. The plug and play interface of claim 15 and further comprising:  
17 said computer system having memory including at least one table; and,  
18 said file reading means includes means for storing said certain of said user actions  
19 to be implemented in said at least one table.

20  
21 17. The plug and play interface of claim 16 and wherein said certain of said user  
22 actions stored in said at least one table are formulated in Java language.

1 18. The plug and play interface of claim 17 and wherein said user permitting means,  
2 operating on said graphical user interface, includes means for greying out other than said  
3 portion of said certain of said user actions on said graphical user interface.

4  
5  
6 19. In a computer system having a graphical user interface a method for  
7 implementing user actions comprising:

8 establishing a file containing information about said user actions;  
9 reading said file to determine certain of said user actions to be implemented; and,  
10 permitting said user to execute a portion of said certain of said user actions  
11 through operation of said graphical user interface.

12  
13 20. The method of claim 19 and wherein said computer system is included within a  
14 client-server network.

15  
16 21. The method of claim 19 and wherein said file is a text file.

17  
18 22. The method of claim 21 and wherein the language used in said text file is XML.

19  
20 23. The method of claim 19 and wherein said information includes every possible one  
21 of said user actions.

24. The method of claim 23 and wherein said file establishing includes establishing a plurality of files containing a like plurality of subsets of said information respectively, where totality of said subsets of said information encompasses said every possible one of said user actions.

25. The method of claim 19 and wherein said file reading includes censoring to censor other than said certain of said user actions to be implemented.

26. The method of claim 19 and further comprising:  
said computer system having memory including at least one table; and,  
said file reading includes storing said certain of said user actions to be implemented in said at least one table.

27. The method of claim 26 and wherein said certain of said user actions stored in said at least one table are formulated in Java language.

28. The method of claim 19 and wherein said user permitting includes operating on said graphical user interface, for greying-out other than said portion of said certain of said user actions.

29. The method of claim 20 and wherein said file is a text file.

30. The method of claim 29 and wherein the language used in said text file is XML.

1  
2 31. The method of claim 30 and wherein said information includes every possible one  
3 of said user actions.

4  
5 32. The method of claim 31 and wherein said file establishing includes establishing a  
6 plurality of files containing a like plurality of subsets of said information respectively,  
7 where totality of said subsets of said information encompasses said every possible one of  
8 said user actions.

9  
10 33. The method of claim 32 and wherein said file reading includes censoring to  
11 censor other than said certain of said user actions to be implemented.

12  
13 34. The method of claim 33 and further comprising:  
14 said computer system having memory including at least one table; and,  
15 said file reading includes storing said certain of said user actions to be  
16 implemented in said at least one table.

17  
18 35. The method of claim 34 and wherein said certain of said user actions stored in  
19 said at least one table are formulated in Java language.

20  
21 36. The method of claim 35 and wherein said user permitting includes operating on  
22 said graphical user interface, for greying out other than said portion of said certain of said  
23 user actions on said graphical user interface.

1  
2  
3 37. In a computer system having a graphical user interface, a computer program  
4 product for use on said system and by which user actions are implemented, said computer  
5 program product including a computer usable medium having computer readable  
6 program code thereon, said computer readable program code comprising:

7 program code for establishing a file containing information about said user  
8 actions;

9 program code for reading said file to determine certain of said user actions to be  
10 implemented; and,

11 program code for permitting said user to execute a portion of said certain of said  
12 user actions through operation of said graphical user interface.

13  
14 38. The computer program product of claim 37 and wherein said computer system is  
15 included within a client-server network.

16  
17 39. The computer program product of claim 37 and wherein said file is a text file.

18  
19 40. The computer program product of claim 39 and wherein the language used in said  
20 text file is XML.

21  
22 41. The computer program product of claim 37 and wherein said information includes  
23 every possible one of said user actions.

1  
2 42. The computer program product of claim 41 and wherein said program code for  
3 file establishing includes program code for establishing a plurality of files containing a  
4 like plurality of subsets of said information respectively, where totality of said subsets of  
5 said information encompasses said every possible one of said user actions.

6  
7 43. The computer program product of claim 37 and wherein said program code for  
8 file reading includes program code for censoring to censor other than said certain of said  
9 user actions to be implemented.

10  
11 44. The computer program product of claim 37 and further comprising:  
12 said computer system having memory including at least one table; and,  
13 said program code for file reading includes program code for storing said certain  
14 of said user actions to be implemented in said at least one table.

15  
16 45. The computer program product of claim 44 and wherein said certain of said user  
17 actions stored in said at least one table are formulated in Java language.

18  
19 46. The computer program product of claim 37 and wherein said program code for  
20 user permitting includes program code for operating on said graphical user interface, for  
21 greying-out other than said portion of said certain of said user actions.

22  
23 47. The computer program product of claim 38 and wherein said file is a text file.



1

2 48. The computer program product of claim 47 and wherein the language used in said  
3 text file is XML.

4

5 49. The computer program product of claim 48 and wherein said information includes  
6 every possible one of said user actions.

7

8 50. The computer program product of claim 49 and wherein said program code for  
9 file establishing includes program code for establishing a plurality of files containing a  
10 like plurality of subsets of said information respectively, where totality of said subsets of  
11 said information encompasses said every possible one of said user actions.

12

13 51. The computer program product of claim 50 and wherein said program code for  
14 file reading includes program code for censoring to censor other than said certain of said  
15 user actions to be implemented.

16

17 52. The computer program product of claim 51 and further comprising:  
18 said computer system having memory including at least one table; and,  
19 said program code for file reading includes program code for storing said certain  
20 of said user actions to be implemented in said at least one table.

21

22 53. The computer program product of claim 52 and wherein said certain of said user  
23 actions stored in said at least one table are formulated in Java language.

1  
2 54. The computer program product of claim 53 and wherein said program code for  
3 user permitting includes program code for operating on said graphical user interface, for  
4 greying out other than said portion of said certain of said user actions on said graphical  
5 user interface.  
6  
7

8 55. In a computer system having memory and a user interface capable of operating  
9 with a plurality of user actions, a system by which said user-interface is implemented  
10 comprising:

11 means for establishing a text file in said memory in which all possible said  
12 plurality of user actions are contained;

13 means for establishing a table in said memory;

14 means for establishing an application framework which reads said text file to store  
15 certain of said plurality of user actions in said table;

16 means for establishing a minimum application requirement for each of said  
17 certain of said plurality of user actions;

18 means for comparing said each of said certain of said plurality of user actions  
19 selected by said user with its respective said minimum application requirement;

20 means, responsive to operation of said comparing means indicating that said  
21 minimum requirement is met for at least a subset of said each of said certain of said  
22 plurality of user actions selected, for determining if any action of said subset is available;  
23 and,

means, responsive to operation of said determining means indicating that said any action is available, for executing said any action.

56. The system of claim 55 and wherein said user interface is a graphical user interface.

57. The system of claim 56 and wherein said text file is formulated in XML computer language.

58. The system of claim 56 and wherein said table is formulated in Java computer language.

59. The system of claim 56 and further comprising:  
means, responsive to operation of said comparing means indicating that said minimum requirement is not met for a group of user actions excluded from said at least a subset, for inhibiting execution of any user actions included within said group.

60. In a computer system having memory and a user interface capable of operating with a plurality of user actions, a computer program product for use on said system and by which user actions are implemented, said computer program product including a computer usable medium having computer readable program code thereon, said computer readable program code comprising:

1 program code for establishing a text file in said memory in which all possible said  
2 plurality of user actions are contained;

3 program code for establishing a table in said memory;

4 program code for establishing an application framework which reads said text file  
5 to store certain of said plurality of user actions in said table;

6 program code for establishing a minimum application requirement for each of  
7 said certain of said plurality of user actions;

8 program code for comparing said each of said certain of said plurality of user  
9 actions selected by said user with its respective said minimum application requirement;

10 program code, responsive to operation of said comparing program code indicating  
11 that said minimum requirement is met for at least a subset of said each of said certain of  
12 said plurality of user actions selected, for determining if any action of said subset is  
13 available; and,

14 program code, responsive to operation of said determining program code  
15 indicating that said any action is available, for executing said any action.

16  
17 61. The system of claim 60 and wherein said user interface is a graphical user  
18 interface.

19  
20 62. The system of claim 61 and wherein said text file is formulated in XML computer  
21 language.

63. The system of claim 61 and wherein said table is formulated in Java computer language.

64. The system of claim 61 and further comprising:  
program code, responsive to operation of said comparing program code indicating that said minimum requirement is not met for a group of user actions excluded from said at least a subset, for inhibiting execution of any user actions included within said group.

65. In a computer system having memory and a user interface capable of operating with a plurality of user actions, a method by which said user-interface is implemented, said method comprising:  
establishing a text file in said memory in which all possible said plurality of user actions are contained;  
establishing a table in said memory;  
establishing an application framework which reads said text file to store certain of said plurality of user actions in said table;  
establishing a minimum application requirement for each of said certain of said plurality of user actions;  
comparing said each of said certain of said plurality of user actions selected by said user with its respective said minimum application requirement,

responsive to said comparing indicating that said minimum requirement is met for at least a subset of said each of said certain of said plurality of user actions selected, for determining if any action of said subset is available; and,  
responsive to operation of said determining indicating that said any action is available, for executing said any action.

66. The method of claim 65 and wherein said user interface is a graphical user interface.

67. The method of claim 66 and wherein said text file is formulated in XML computer language.

68. The method of claim 66 and wherein said table is formulated in Java computer language.

69. The method of claim 66 and further comprising:  
responsive to operation of said comparing indicating that said minimum requirement is not met for a group of user actions excluded from said at least a subset, for inhibiting execution of any user actions included within said group.

70. In a client server network, said client having a user interface and a memory including a table for storing at least menu items of said user interface, a method for

1 determining which actions of said user shall be displayed on, and communicated to said  
2 network through, said user interface, said method comprising:  
3 reading said file and storing menus and menu-items of said file in said table;  
4 said user selecting one of said menus to obtain a user-selected menu;  
5 detecting one of said menus to be displayed on said user interface corresponding  
6 to said user selected menu;  
7 for said one of said menus displayed as a menu selected from the group consisting  
8 of popup menu and main menu, consulting said table to get a selected menu  
9 corresponding to said user-selected menu;  
10 for each menu-item in said selected menu calling isAvailable and thereby  
11 showing said each menu-item in a visual state selected from the group consisting of  
12 normal visual state and grayed-out visual state;  
13 if said normal visual state, calling actionPerformed to perform said action;  
14 if said grayed-out visual state, bypassing said calling action performed; and,  
15 repeating said selecting, detecting, consulting, calling and thereby showing,  
16 calling and bypassing until all of said which actions have been determined.

17  
18  
19 71. In a computer system having memory including a table for storing objects and  
20 having a user interface, a computer program product for use on said system and by which  
21 a determination of which actions of said user shall be displayed on said user interface,  
22 said computer program product including a computer usable medium having computer  
23 readable program code thereon, said computer readable program code comprising:

1 program code for reading said file and storing menus and menu-items of said file  
2 in said table;  
3 said user employing program code for selecting one of said objects to obtain a  
4 user-selected object;  
5 program code for detecting one of said menus to be displayed on said user  
6 interface corresponding to said user selected object;  
7 for said one of said menus displayed as a menu selected from the group consisting  
8 of popup menu and main menu, program code for consulting said table to get a selected  
9 menu corresponding to said user-selected object;  
10 for each menu-item in said selected menu, program code for calling isAvailable  
11 and thereby showing said each menu-item in a visual state selected from the group  
12 consisting of normal visual state and grayed-out visual state;  
13 if said normal visual state, program code for calling actionPerformed to perform  
14 said action;  
15 if said grayed-out visual state, program code for bypassing said program code for  
16 calling action performed; and,  
17 program code for repeating said program code for selecting, program code for  
18 detecting, program code for consulting, program code for calling and thereby showing,  
19 program code for calling and program code for bypassing until all of said which actions  
20 have been determined.



1 72. A method for manufacturing graphical user interface software employed in a  
2 computer system to be utilized by a user, said method comprising:  
3 establishing a text file containing both all possible menus of said graphical user  
4 interface and their respective menu items, said all possible menus corresponding  
5 respectively to all system objects in said system;  
6 integrating first code and second code into said software to be supplied to said  
7 user, said first and second code to operate on selected objects responsive to requests from  
8 said user;  
9 including censor code into said software that eliminates availability of certain of  
10 said selected objects;  
11 reading said text file to obtain said menus and to obtain said their respective  
12 menu-items;  
13 storing said menus and said their respective menu-items as Java language objects;  
14 and,  
15 testing and preparing said software for shipment to said user.

17 73. The method of claim 72 and wherein said text file is written in XML computer  
18 language.

20 74. The method of claim 73 and wherein said first code is Java isAvailable code and  
21 said second code is Java actionPerformed code.